

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 23, 28, 26, 34, and 35 have been amended. Claims 1, 21, and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 2-18, 20, 23-35 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 and OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurata et al. (US Patent No. 5,961,111). Further, at page 6 of the Office Action, claims 2-4 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 21, and 22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The canceled features of claim 1 are incorporated into claim 2.

It is respectfully requested that that claim 2-4 should be allowed.

Claims 7-34 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, para. 2. Claims 7 and 11 have been amended to clarify same.

Claim 35 has been amended to clarify same.

In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the objection.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

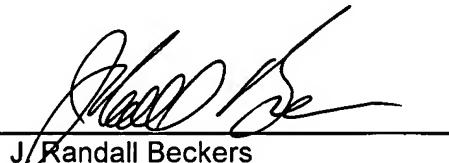
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 10/2/6

By:



J. Randall Beckers
Registration No. 30,358

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501